

Dear FCC Chairman Powell;

The electromagnetic spectrum is a resource owned by the public and administered by the FCC as a Public Trust.

Unfortunately, the media corporations who now are now granted the privilege of using those airwaves have failed in their responsibility of serving the public.

The quality of programming and journalistic values is alarming, and does nothing to "serve the public". One routinely is exposed to biased and partisan political material of national scope. Local programming is nonexistent.

More than half of news broadcasts prior to the 2002 elections did not include a single campaign story. Our democracy is at risk when many Americans don't know basic facts about the candidates or the issues, as was the case in the 2000 elections.

Since broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest, the FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us.

Please consider these points as it seems our electromagnetic spectrum is in danger of being stolen by corporate interests.

Sincerely,

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